

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 24480 01 OF 02 231701Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00

/086 W

----- 093236

O R 231651Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4247

INFO USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRENCH DATA POSITION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MISTRAL CALLED IN EMBASSY OFFICER TO SAY THAT AFTER LENGTHY CONSIDERATION AT HIGH LEVEL OF SUGGESTIONS PRESENTED BY FRENCH, BRITISH AND U.S., FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAS DECIDED THAT THE FRENCH MUST ADHERE TO THE POSITION THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN EITHER THE COMMON CEILING OR THE DATA BASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 23 MISTRAL (PACTS AND DISARMAMENT) CALLED IN EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER TO CONVEY FRENCH POSITION AFTER "LONG ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION" ON FRENCH POSITION. MISTRAL STATED THAT HE HAD EARLIER TODAY CALLED IN REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH AND GERMAN EMBAS-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 24480 01 OF 02 231701Z

SIES AND DELIVERED TO THEM THE SAME OFFICIAL ORAL

COMMUNICATION ON INSTRUCTION OF FORELGN MINISTER
SAUVAGNARGUES.

3. MISTRAL NOTED THAT CONCERNING THE FRENCH POSITION ON THE INCLUSION OF THEIR FORCES IN GERMANY IN THE COMMON CEILING AND IN THE DATA BASE, THERE HAD BEEN TALKS IN BRUSSELS, APPROACHES BY RUTH (FRG) AND THOMSON (UK) IN PARIS, IN ADDITION TO THE DISCUSSION WITH HUMPHREYS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 5. FOLLOWING THESE CONVERSATIONS THE FRENCH HAD CONSIDERED TWO POSSIBLE FORMULAS:

-- THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY MIGHT SOMEHOW BE INCLUDED UNDER A FORMULA WHICH WOULD NOT REQUIRE THAT THEY BE ENUMERATED TO THE EAST BUT THAT SOMEHOW COMPENSATORY ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE.

-- THAT FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY COULD BE INCLUDED IN DATA BASE BUT WITH THE DISCLAIMER THAT NO AGREEMENT WOULD BE BINDING ON FRENCH FORCES.

4. MISTRAL SAID THAT SAUVAGNARGUES IS SENSITIVE TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THIS QUESTION, WHICH COULD COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH ALLIES. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH HAVE TWO FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO INCLUSION OF THE FRENCH FORCES UNDER THE COMMON CEILING IN ANY WAY:

-- SINCE THE BEGINNING THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN INTENT THAT THEIR FORCES WOULD NOT BE INTERMINGLED WITH MBFR EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

-- THE FRENCH ARE INTENT THAT THE SIZE OF FRENCH FORCES WOULD NOT COME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS OR ANY EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

MISTRAL CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE HAD QUESTLONS ABOUT OPTION THREE AND IN GENERAL ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 24480 01 OF 02 231701Z

ANY LIMITS THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY DEVELOP ON EITHER FORCE LEVELS OR TYPES OF ARMAMENTS. MISTRAL THEN REITERATED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NO INTENTION TO PUT ROADBLOCKS IN THE PATH OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT DURING THE REVIEW THEY HAD EXAMINED ALL THE CONCEPTS THAT HAVE YET COME TO MIND. THE FRENCH DO NOT RULE OUT THAT SOME FURTHER IMAGINATION ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES MIGHT DEVELOP A FORMULA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE

A WAY OUT. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH SEE NO GREAT URGENCY IN
SEARCHING FOR SUCH A FORMULA.

5. MISTRAL ADDED TWO OTHER POINTS. FIRST, HE ARGUED
THAT FRENCH FORCES COMprise ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 24480 02 OF 02 231659Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00

/086 W

----- 093243

O R 231651Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4248

INFO USMISSION NATO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24480

THE TOTAL ALLIED FORCES. THUS A RESOLUTION SHOULD NOT
POSE A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM AMONG THE ALLIES. SECONDLY,
MISTRAL SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WILL NOT BE SURPRISED
THAT THE FRENCH REFUSE TO HAVE THEIR FORCES COUNTED.
MISTRAL SAID THAT DURING GROMYKO'S VISIT DURING APRIL,
MBFR CAME UP IN THE CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES.
GROMYKO ASKED SAUVAGNARGUES WHEN FRENCH FORCES WOULD
EVENTUALLY BE INCLUDED IN MBFR. SAUVAGNARGUES REPLIED,

"NEVER; NOT NOW OR EVER." GROMYKO JESTINGLY ASKED IF
THAT WOULD BE THE CASE IN 20 YEARS. SAUVAGNARGUES
REPLIED, "YES."

6. COMMENT: REGRETABLY BUT NOT SURPRISINGLY THE
FRENCH HAVE NOT GIVEN AN INCH. MISTRAL TOOK PAINS TO
EMPHASIZE THAT THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN AT HIGH LEVEL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 24480 02 OF 02 231659Z

AND THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WAS AWARE OF THE FULL RANGE OF
DETAIL INVOLVED. MISTRAL'S COMMENT THAT THE FRENCH SEE
NO URGENCY IN FINDING A RESOLUTION INDICATES THAT WE
WILL HEAR NO MORE FROM THEM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE
ALLIES HAVE COME UP WITH A NEW FORMULA OR SET OF OPTIONS
WHICH MIGHT BE OFFERED TO THE QUAI.

GAMMON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MILITARY PLANS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS24480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760321-0926
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760829/aaaaayqf.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: FRENCH DATA POSITION
TAGS: PARM, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006